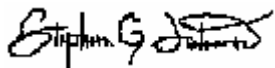


I submit the following in response to the Localism Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, released Jan. 24, 2008, in MB Docket No. 04-233.

Any new FCC rules, policies or procedures must not violate First Amendment rights. A number of proposals discussed in the NPRM, would do so and must not be adopted. The First Amendment prohibits government, including the FCC, from dictating what viewpoints a broadcaster, particularly a religious broadcaster, must present.

- (1) The FCC must not force radio stations, to take advice from people who do not share their values. The NPRM's advisory board proposals would impose unconstitutional mandates. Religious broadcasters who resist advice from those who don't share their values could face increased harassment, complaints and even loss of license rather than allowing incompatible viewpoints to shape their programming.
- (2) The FCC must not turn every radio station into a public forum where anyone has rights to air time. Proposed public access requirements would do so even if a broadcaster conscientiously objects to the message. The First Amendment forbids imposition of message delivery mandates on any religion.
- (3) The FCC must not force revelation of specific editorial decision making information. The choice of programming, especially religious programming, is not properly dictated by any government agency and proposals to force reporting would intrude on constitutionally-protected editorial choices.
- (4) The FCC must not establish a two-tiered renewal system in which certain licensees would be automatically barred from routine renewal application processing. The proposed mandatory special renewal review of certain classes of applicants by the Commissioners themselves would amount to coercion of religious broadcasters. Those who stay true to their consciences and present only the messages they correspond to their beliefs could face long, expensive and potentially ruinous renewal proceedings.
- (5) Many Christian broadcasters operate on tight budgets. Keeping the electricity flowing is often a challenge. Yet, the Commission proposes to further squeeze niche and smaller market broadcasters, by substantially raising costs in two ways: (a) Requiring staff presence whenever a station is on the air and, (b) by further restricting main studio location choices. Raising costs with these proposals would force service cutbacks.

We urge the FCC not to adopt rules, procedures or policies discussed above.



Signature

\_\_Stephen Johnson\_\_

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Title (if any)

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